

Message Text

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70/10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIEP-01 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01

SEC-01 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /072 W
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O R 060910Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1418
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11883

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJ: MORE LOCKHEED DEVELOPMENTS

REF: TOKYO 11604

SUMMARY: DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS CHARGES (SO FAR
UNSUBSTANTIATED) THAT LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE WAS INVOLVED
IN THE LOCKHEED PAYOFFS HAVE SURFACED IN THE PRESS AND
THE DIET. THE FIRST ATTEMPTS BY PRIMIN MIKI TO ARRANGE
A LATE AUGUST OPENING DATE FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE DIET WERE THUS FAR STYMIED BY THE OPPOSITION
AND MIKI OPPONENTS IN THE LDP. DURING THE WEEK THE TENDANCY
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OF THE LDP TO POLARIZE INTO PRO AND ANTI-MIKI CAMPS
GREW AND THE WEEK ENDED AS IT BEGAN WITH MEDIA SPECULATION
THAT MORE LOCKHEED ARRESTS WERE IMMINENT. END SUMMARY

1. THE ASAHI SHIMBUN RAN A HEADLINE STORY ON AUGUST 6 REPORTING THAT WHEN LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE WAS MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN 1973, HE TOOK KODAMA MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR OIL EXPLOITATION RIGHTS IN ABU DHABI BY JAPAN LINE, A KODAMA COMPANY. THE STORY DOES NOT MENTION ANY DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE LOCKHEED PAYOFFS. LAST WEEK THE ASAHI RAN THE FIRST MAJOR STORY LINKING NAKASONE TO LOCKHEED WHEN IT REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMES IN LOCKHEED EVIDENCE SUPPLIED TO JAPAN BY AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. NAKASONE HAS ALSO BEEN THE TARGET OF NOT VERY SPECIFIC CHARGES OF LOCKHEED INVOLVEMENT BY JCP AND JSP INTERPELLATORS IN THE DIET THIS WEEK.

2. AT A MEETING ON AUGUST 5 OF THE TOP LEVEL PROSECUTORS ON THE LOCKHEED CASE IT WAS DECIDED, ACCORDING TO THE TOKYO PRESS, TO MOVE TOWARD AN INDICTMENT OF TANAKA ON CHARGES OF SIMPLE BRIBERY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE VIOLATIONS BEFORE HIS DETENTION TERM ENDS ON AUGUST 16. THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT FINALIZE PLANS TO INDICT HIM ON THE MORE SERIOUS CHARGE OF BRIBERY-CUM-MALFEASANCE BUT LEFT OPEN THAT POSSIBILITY. THEY ARE ALSO SAID TO BE READY TO INDICT TOSHIO ENOMOTO, TANAKA'S SECRETARY, ON BRIBERY CHARGES BY AUGUST 9, THUS CIRCUMVENTING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR BOTH MEN.

3. YOSHIO KODAMA, THE BEDRIDDEN RIGHTIST FIXER, ON AUGUST 5 REFUSED A DIET ORDER TO TESTIFY AGAIN FROM HIS BED ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE IS SERIOUSLY ILL.

4. ALSO ON AUGUST 5, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY IDE MET WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES' LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEES TO NEGOTIATE A DATE FOR OPENING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE DIET. THE PRIMIN REPORTEDLY WOULD LIKE TO OPEN THE SESSION AROUND AUGUST 23 BUT ALLL OPPOSITION REPRESENTATIVES EXCEPT THE DSP MAN SAID THEY OPPOSED SETTING A DATE FOR THE SESSION
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UNTIL AN END TO THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATIONS WAS IN SIGHT. SPEAKERS OF BOTH UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES WERE ALSO REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS A DIET OPENING UNTIL THE COURSE OF THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION IS CLEARER AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, UNTIL THERE IS GREATER LDP UNITY ON TIMVNG.

4. COMMENT: IN THE BSENCE OF FURTHER ARRESTSS, THE POLITICIANS TOOK OVER CENTER STAGE THIS WEEK. THE RESULT WAS A POLARIZATION OF CONSERVATIVES FOR AND AGAINST MIKI. EARLY WEEK BROUGHT CONFIRMATION OF POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE MIKI CABINET AND ITS HANDLING OF THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION. A SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL - THE FIRST SINCE

TANAKA'S ARREST - FOUND UNDIMINISHED (42PERCENT) SUPPORT FOR THE MIKI CABINET (FULLY TEN PERCENTAGE POINTS AHEAD OF SUPPORT FOR THE LDP), 60PERCENT SUPPORT FOR MIKI'S HANDLING OF LOCKHEED AND 84PERCENT SUPPORT FOR THE TANAKA ARREST. (TOKYO 11658).

5. DESPITE THIS, HOWEVER, THE MAIN POLITICAL NEWS OF THE WEEK WAS THE RISING TIDE OF OPPOSITION TO MIKI WITHIN THE LDP. SPURRED BY THE RAW EMOTIONS OF THE NOW RUDDERLESS TANAKA FACTION AND THE BARELY DISGUISED ANTI-MIKI STANCE OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA WHO NOW CALLS FOR "COMPLETE PARTY REFORM," CONSERVATIVES MET THROUGHOUT THE WEEK TO URGE, MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY, THAT MIKI STEP DOWN. THE HIGH POINT CAME AUGUST 3, WHEN A GROUP OF MIDDLE AND JUNIOR RANKING CONSERVATIVES, UNTI NOW OSTENSIBLY A NEUTRAL FORCE WITHIN THE PARTY, URGED MIKI TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT LDP "CRISIS" AND DEMANDED A PARTY CONVENTION OR CAUCUS BEFORE CONVENING AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION. THE FUKUDA LINE WAS ECHOED BY CHIEF BUSINESSMAN REP DOKO.

6. BUT, UNABLE TO GET A FIRM HOLD ON MIKI, UNHAPPY CONSERVATIVES--TAKING THEIR CUE FROM THE ASAHI NEWSPAPER AND LINGERING SUSPICIONS OF AN UNSAVORY KODAMA RELATIONSHIP--INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATED THEIR PLANNING ON THE MORE VULNERABLE LDP SEC GEN AND CHIEF MIKI ALLY, YASUHIRO NAKASONE. MANY CONFIDENTLY PREDICTED HIS ARREST AND CERTAIN FALL OF THE MIKI CABINET: OTHERS, STRESSING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LIKELIHOOD OF NAKASONE'S BECOMING AN OPPOSITION PARTY TARGET DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TALKED OF "POSSIBLE" MIKI DEMISE. RELYING HEAVILY ON BOTH THESE NOTIONS, A FUKUDA CONFIDENT DESCRIBED THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AS "HOPEFUL" OF ATTAINING POWER IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. CONTRASTED WITH THIS WAS FONMIN MIYAZAWA'S (NO MIKI FAN) AUGUST 3 STATEMENT TO AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT MIKI IS LIKELY TO BE AROUND FOR A WHILE, SINCE HIS OPPONENTS ARE IN NO POSITION TO FORCE HIM OUT. ALL ABREE, HOWEVER, THAT ONLY THE IMPLICATION OF A NAKASONE OR CURRENT CABINET MEMBER WOULD IMMEDIATELY ENDANGER MIKI AND THE WEEK ENDED, WHERE IT BEGAN, WITH PRESS SPECULATION THAT FUTURE ARRESTS ARE LIKELY NEXT WEEK. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, ARRESTS, AIRCRAFT SALES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO11883
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760303-0633
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaerhe.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE LOCKHEED DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, ETRD, JA, LOCKHEED
To: STATE INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
MANILA
SEOUL
TAIPEI
THE HAGUE

ROME
PEKING
HONG KONG

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006